



BEDWELLY



URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

The Annual Reports of the

Medical Officer of Health

&

Chief Public Health Inspector

Year ended 31st December, 1966.

1871-1872



1871-1872

1871-1872

1871-1872

1871-1872

1871-1872

1871-1872

BEDWELLY



URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

The Annual Reports of the

Medical Officer of Health

&

Chief Public Health Inspector

Year ended 31st December, 1966.

RECEIVED



LIBRARY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

The Annual Report of the

Medical College of Toronto

4

Chief Public Health Inspector

For the year ending 31st December, 1900

BEDWELLY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

1966 - 1967

Chairman - Councillor W. Hardacre, J.P.
(died 13.10.66.)
- Councillor G. H. Hawker, J.P.
(from 13.10.66.)

Vice-Chairman - Alderman F. O. Sainsbury, J.P.

MEMBERS

Alderman F. O. Sainsbury, J.P.	Councillor Mrs. R. James
Councillor R. R. Bryant, M.M.	" M. E. E. Lloyd
" P. G. Bullen, D.F.C.	" K. Meade
" W. D. G. Cole	" G. C. Nelmes
" D. Davies	" W. E. Park
" Mrs. E. Davies	" Mrs. M. R. Powell
" T. I. Davies	" J. Salway
" F. E. Evans	" G. H. Thomas
" B. Gibbs, J.P.	" J. D. Turner
" E. G. Hodges	" D. G. Werrett

HOUSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman - Councillor J. D. Turner
Vice-Chairman - Councillor G. H. Thomas

Alderman F. O. Sainsbury, J.P.	Councillor G. H. Hawker (E.O.)
Councillor R. R. Bryant, M.M.	" E. G. Hodges
" W. D. G. Cole	" M. E. E. Lloyd
" D. Davies	" K. Meade
" T. I. Davies	" G. C. Nelmes
" B. Gibbs	" G. H. Thomas
Councillor J. Salway	

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

Medical Officer of Health	...	...	...	Dr. A. Trenhaile, L.M.S.S.A. (London), D.P.H.
Chief Public Health Inspector	...	...	...	A. M. Coleman, F.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H., (Qualified Meat and Food Inspector)
Public Health Inspector	...	...	...	E. J. Francis, M.A.P.H.I., (Qualified Meat and Food Inspector)
Public Health and Shops Inspector	...	...	...	G. H. Gane, M.A.P.H.I., (Qualified Meat and Food Inspector)
Student Public Health Inspector	...	...	...	R. Mitchard
Rodent Operator and Mortuary and Post Mortem Attendant (Part-time)				C. O. Shelton
Shorthand Typist/Clerk	...	...	...	Miss C. A. Thomas

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR 1966

Area of District in Acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	7,353
Population (Census 1951)	...	...	...	...	...	...	28,826
(Census 1961)	...	...	...	...	...	...	27,336
Estimated Population for Birth and Death Rates 1966	...	...					27,130
Number of Inhabited Houses as at 31st December, 1966	...	...					7,800
Number of Persons per House	...	...	...	...	...	...	3.4
Rateable Value as at 31st March, 1966			...	...	...	...	£576,584
Product of Penny Rate 1965/66	...	...	...	...	...	...	£2,225
Number of Births	...	...	...	...	...	...	435
Net Birth Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	16.1
Number of Illegitimate Births	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Number of Deaths of Residents	...	...	...	...	...	...	326
Net Death Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	12.1
Number of Deaths under one year	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Of these, there were Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	NIL
Infantile Mortality, per 1,000 Births			...	...	...	...	16.1
Number of Women dying from Childbirth	...	...	...	...	...	...	NIL
Number of Deaths from all forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Number of Deaths from all forms of Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Number of Deaths from all forms of Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	47
Number of Deaths from all forms of Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Number of Deaths from all forms of Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	NIL
Number of Deaths from all forms of Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	125
Number of Deaths from all forms of Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	...	38

BEDWELLY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Department,
Municipal Offices,
Aberbargoed,
Bargoed,
Glam.

1st June, 1967.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Bedwellty Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1966. The Report is presented in accordance with the Public Health Officers Regulations 1959, and on the lines indicated by Circular 1/67 (Wales) issued by the Welsh Board of Health.

Physical Features

The Bedwellty Urban District is situated in the North West of Monmouthshire, and occupies a hill ridge and parts of two valleys. The greater length, from north to south, is six and half miles and its maximum width, from east to west, is two and a half miles. It is bounded by the Rhymney River in the west and to the east by the Sirhowy River. It covers an area of 7,353 acres and, for all administrative purposes, is included in the County of Monmouthshire.

General Statistics and Social Conditions

The Registrar General's estimate of the population at mid-1966 was 27,130. The census figure for 1961 was 27,336.

The main industry in the area is coal mining but a number of light industries, including clothing manufacturing, have become established. However, due to the run down in the coal mining industry, the urgent need to attract further industry to the area is only too apparent.

Estimated Population (mid-1966) of Adjacent Urban Districts

Abercarn U.D.	19,200
Abertillery U.D.	24,210
Bedwas and Machen U.D.	11,370
Gelligaer U.D.	35,000
Rhymney U.D.	8,760
Tredeggar U.D.	19,300

VITAL STATISTICS - 1966

MOTHERS AND INFANTS

LIVE BIRTHS

Number of births registered during the year	...	...	...	...	435
	<u>Males</u>		<u>Females</u>		
Legitimate	212		205		
Illegitimate	<u>12</u>		<u>5</u>		
	<u>224</u>		<u>211</u>		
Live birth rate per 1,000 population, crude	...	...	...	...	16.1
Percentage of illegitimate to legitimate	...	...	...	...	4.1

STILLBIRTHS

Number of births registered during the year	...	...	...	...	10
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	...	...	...	...	22.5
<u>TOTAL LIVE AND STILLBIRTHS</u>	...	...	...	...	445

If a comparison of the local birth rate is to be made with that for England and Wales, the local figure should be multiplied by a comparability factor of 0.99 which is given by the Registrar General.

INFANT DEATHS (deaths under one year)

Deaths of Infants	Males			Females		
	Total	Leg.	Illeg.	Total	Leg.	Illeg.
Under 1 year of age	4	4	-	3	3	-
Under 4 weeks of age	-	-	-	2	2	-
Under 1 week of age	-	-	-	2	2	-

Total number of deaths under one year	7
---------------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

INFANT MORTALITY RATES

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	...	...	...	16.1
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	16.7
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	NIL

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE (deaths under four weeks per 1,000 live births) 4.6

EARLY NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE (deaths under one week per 1,000 live births) 4.6

PERI-NATAL MORTALITY RATE (stillbirths and deaths under one week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths) 27.0

Comparative Rates - 1966

	Bedwellty U.D.	Administrative County of Monmouth	England and Wales
Infant mortality rate	16.1	25.0	19.0
Peri-natal mortality rate	27.0	33.9	26.3

Causes of Death of Infants Under One Year

Cause of Death	Number
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	1
Pneumonia	2
Congenital Malformations	1
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	3
Total	7

MATERNAL MORTALITY

Number of deaths NIL

DEATHS 1966

Number of deaths during year 326

Death rate per 1,000 of population after correction of inward and
outward transfers 12.1

Death rate for the previous years compared:-

<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1961</u>	<u>1962</u>	<u>1963</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>
10.83	10.5	11.7	11.1	11.9	10.5	9.9	12.1

The local death rate is comparable with that for England and Wales if the local rate is multiplied by the Registrar General's comparability factor of 1.30.

Comparative Death Rates (Adjusted) 1966

Bedwellty U.D.	Administrative County of Monmouth	England and Wales
15.7	13.6	11.7

65.3% of persons who died during the year had attained the age of 65 years and over and 40.8% were 75 years and over.

CAUSES OF DEATH 1966

CAUSE	MALES	FEMALES
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	1	-
Cancer (Stomach)	4	3
Cancer (Lung, Bronchus)	8	2
Cancer (Breast)	-	2
Cancer (Uterus)	-	4
Cancer (Other Sites)	13	2
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	3	-
Diabetes	-	2
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	14	28
Coronary Disease, Angina	41	16
Hypertension with Heart Disease	3	-
Other Heart Disease	13	31
Other Circulatory Disease	11	10
Influenza	2	-
Pneumonia	7	4
Bronchitis	38	9
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	6	-
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	-
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	-	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	3
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	-
Congenital Malformations	1	-
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	10	11
Motor Vehicle Accidents	3	-
All Other Accidents	10	4
Suicide	1	2
Homicide	-	1
TOTALS	191	135

Heart and circulatory diseases accounted for 38 per cent. of all deaths, respiratory diseases for 20 per cent. and cancer for about 12.5 per cent.

DEATHS FROM INFECTIOUS DISEASES

During the year there were no deaths from any notified disease, except from Tuberculosis.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN REGISTRATION WARDS

Ward	Notifiable Disease	
	Scarlet Fever	Measles
New Tredegar	-	108
Aberbargoed	-	23
Pengam	-	14
Cefn Fforest	1	5
Blackwood	-	44
Argoed	-	8
Markham	-	1
Hollybush	-	1

There were no notifications received during the final quarter of the year.

DISTRIBUTION OF CASES OF PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS
ACCORDING TO AGE GROUPS IN THE PAST 12 YEARS

YEAR	AGE GROUP		
	1 - 5 Yrs	6 - 15 Yrs	16 & over
1955	-	4	34
1956	1	7	18
1957	2	4	20
1958	1	5	19
1959	3	1	10
1960	4	1	23
1961	2	1	8
1962	-	-	5
1963	2	1	11
1964	1	-	7
1965	-	1	6
1966	1	-	7

OCCUPATIONAL INCIDENCE OF TUBERCULOSIS

Occupation	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
MALES		
Miner	1	-
Coal Merchant	1	-
Ex-Factory Worker	1	-
Porters Clerk	1	-
Old Age Pensioner	1	-
Not known	1	-
FEMALES		
Housewife	1	-
Schoolgirl	1	-

COMPARISON OF NOTIFICATIONS AND DEATHS FROM PULMONARY
TUBERCULOSIS DURING THE LAST TEN YEARS

Year	Formal Notifications	Deaths
1957	26	1
1958	34	9
1959	14	10
1960	28	3
1961	12	2
1962	5	3
1963	13	1
1964	8	3
1965	7	Nil
1966	8	1

The following table shows the new cases of tuberculosis during 1966.

Age Period in years	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
0 - 5	-	1	1	-	-	-
6 - 14	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 24	1	-	1	-	-	-
25 - 44	-	2	2	-	-	-
45 - 64	3	-	3	-	-	-
65 and over	2	-	2	-	-	-

The Chest Clinic services for the district were re-organised during the year. The Pontllanfraith Clinic was finally closed in September and there are now no facilities available in or near the Bedwellty Area.

Patients from Argoed, Blackwood, Cefn Fforest, Hollybush and Markham must now be referred to the Chest Clinic at Tredegar General Hospital, whilst those from New Tredegar, Aberbargoed, Pengam and Fleur-de-lis must travel to Caerphilly Chest Clinic.

A mass radiography survey was undertaken during August 1966, with the following results:-

	Total Attendance	Number found to be abnormal
New Tredegar	753	70 or 9.3%
Aberbargoed	368	32 or 8.7%
Fleur-de-lis	329	31 or 9.4%
Blackwood	534	42 or 7.8%
Markham	363	44 or 12.1%

There were 12 cases requiring further observation. The abnormal X-rays were mainly of pneumoconiosis.

The attendance was disappointing and it would appear that such X-ray units can be more usefully employed in factories or works where the response is so much better than if the service is offered to the public at large.

WATER SUPPLIES

During the months of July, August and September, the water supply in the Rhymney Valley Area, which is supplied mainly from the Rhymney Bridge Reservoir, was very turbid and, at times, large deposits were in evidence from tap water in various houses.

Frequent bacteriological samples had, on occasions, given unsatisfactory results. Apparently, the turbidity of the water was due to inadequate functioning by the existing obsolete filters at Rhymney Bridge.

On 20th September, bacteriological samples showed heavy pollution and it became necessary to advise the boiling of all water for drinking and domestic purposes. This ban remained in force until 6th October.

Investigations by the Taf Fechan Water Board revealed that:-

1. Surface water was finding its way into the Cwmsyflog tank.
2. The method of chlorinating the Phillipstown tank was inadequate.
3. A fault was observed in the chlorinator at Rhymney Bridge.

The measures taken by the Taf Fechan Water Board to remedy these faults have been effective. All bacteriological samples since then have been satisfactory. However, the quality of the water is not expected to improve until new filters are in commission sometime in May, 1967.

It still remains a very necessary duty on the part of the Public Health Department to maintain a constant watch on the quality and purity of public water supplies.

In conclusion, I wish to express my appreciation of the support and interest shown by the Council and officers and staff of the other departments. I also take this opportunity to thank the staff of the Public Health Department for their loyal and efficient service since I took up office in August, 1966.

Yours faithfully,

A. TRENHAILE

Medical Officer of Health.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT

(Telephone: Bargoed 2361-7)

Public Health Department,
Municipal Offices,
Aberbargoed,
Bargoed,
Glam.

1st June, 1967.

To the Chairman and Members of the
BEDWELLY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report on the work done in the Public Health Department during 1966.

.....

NOTICES SERVED

(a) Public Health Act 1936

(i) Informal notices in respect of repairs and nuisances (Sec 92)	126
(ii) Abatement notices requiring repair of dwellings (Sec. 93) ...	71
(iii) Requiring cleansing of premises (Sec. 83)	2
(iv) Requiring adequate supply of water in pipes to dwelling houses (Sec. 138)	1

(b) Other Acts

Factories Act 1961, Sec. 7 (provision of sanitary conveniences) ...	1
Housing Act 1957, Sec. 85(2) (notice to occupier to abate over-crowding)	2
Housing Act 1961, Sec. 15 (execution of work in houses in multiple occupation)	1
Housing Act 1961, Sec. 16 (provision of fire escape)	1
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949, Sec. 4 (notice to owner to destroy rats)	1

(a) Repair of privately owned houses

(i) Number of houses repaired by owners as a result of informal notice	31
(ii) Number of houses repaired by owners as a result of formal notice	55

The foregoing figures show an increase of 12 notices on the number for 1965.

Included in (ii) above is one case which required Police Court action.

(b) Slum Clearance

The following houses were subject to demolition or closing orders during 1966:-

Station House, Station Road, New Tredegar;
 28a, 30a and 32a Upper Road, Cwmsyfiog;
 31 High Street, Pengam;
 15 Ivor Street, Fleur-de-lis;
 1 Park View, Fleur-de-lis;
 12, 13, 20 and 21 Victoria Road, Fleur-de-lis;
 19, 20, 21 and 22 Castle Street, Fleur-de-lis;
 14 High Street, Argoed.

The above houses constitute a part of the programme over a five year period which ends in 1970, when approximately 140 houses will have been dealt with within the five years. Up to December, 1966, the first two years of the programme, 63 houses had been represented as unfit and procedure commenced or completed. In addition to this programme, 100 prefabricated houses were dealt with.

(c) Improvement of Houses

Number of applications received during 1963, 1964, 1965 and 1966:-

	1963	1964	1965	1966
Standard Grants	29	79	62	22
Discretionary Grants	25	56	105	7
Totals	54	135	167	29

The number of applications for standard grant has shown a substantial decrease from previous years.

Details of Standard Grants for 1966:-

Number of applications received: 22
Number of applications approved: 25
Number of applications paid: 38

Number of baths installed: 20
Number of wash-hand basins installed: 25
Number of hot water supplies installed: 20
Number of W.C.s installed: 34
Number of foodstores installed: 17

Total amount of grants paid: £3,537. 10. Od.

Details of Discretionary Grants for 1966:-

Number of applications received: 7
Number of applications approved: 54
Number of applications paid: 54

Repair schedules were made for all these houses and such repairs are being carried out concurrent with improvement.

COUNCIL HOUSES

House to house inspections of council property have been carried out, with particular attention being paid to cleanliness, overcrowding

and urgent repairs. It has been necessary to carry out many following inspections at a few houses where conditions have not been up to standard.

Number of inspections carried out during 1966: 427.

I am indebted to Mr. A. S. Daynes, Housing Manager, who has supplied me with the number of applications for council houses. The position at 31st March, 1967, was:-

In apartments	245
*Tenants and others	<u>233</u>
	<u>478</u>

*This number does not include applications for bungalows from other accommodation.

All vacant council houses are inspected and accommodation of prospective tenants examined. The number of inspections carried out for this purpose during the year were:-

Vacated council houses	58
Transfers of tenancy	94
Prospective tenants	217

Of the 217 prospective tenants investigated, seven were deferred on grounds of unsatisfactory standard of cleanliness. In some of these cases, improvement was shown after further visits and, where the improvement was substantial and progressive, the applications were passed as satisfactory. This procedure is, no doubt, having a beneficial effect by emphasising to the prospective tenants the necessity of maintaining their houses in a cleanly state.

WATER SUPPLIES

Water supplies in the Rhymney Valley and Sirhowy Valley are sampled at approximately fortnightly intervals, samples being taken from all points in the area.

Number of samples taken during the year	145
Rhymney Valley supply	90
Sirhowy Valley supply	55

A comment on the results of these samples is given on page 11 of the report.

REFUSE

This service is under the supervision of the Engineer and Surveyor and householders in all parts of the area are supplied with refuse bins. Collection is twice weekly with additional salvage collection.

During the inspection of shops, it has been found often that refuse, including salvage material, is dumped at the rear of the premises and inadequate means of storage provided. Efforts are being made to require the proprietors to provide adequate storage and baling facilities.

Indiscriminate dumping of refuse is still a problem on waste land and in back lanes and circulars have been sent to householders in various parts of the area calling their attention to this insanitary and disgusting practice. Much time has been taken in trying to apprehend persons dumping refuse but without avail. It is difficult to understand the mentality of persons who provide these reservoirs of rat infestation and disease when the council have a service for collection of all types of refuse.

PET ANIMALS ACT 1951

There is no licensed shop for the sale of pets in the area.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

The area is served by two trunk sewers with sea outfall. A few houses are not on the water-borne system in the more rural parts of the area. The village of Manmoel is served by a septic tank and biological filter.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948, SECTION 50

Burial of the Dead

It was not necessary to carry out duties under this Act during the year. The contractor to the council for this service is Mr. Herbert Jones, Blackwood (telephone number: Blackwood 2365). His contract includes the removal of the body of a person found dead on the public highway or in any public place.

PUBLIC MORTUARY AND POST MORTEM ROOM

55 autopsies were carried out at the post mortem room during 1966. A fee of £2. 17. Od. is paid by the coroner for this service at the mortuary.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There is no common lodging house in the area.

HAIRDRESSERS AND BARBERS

Byelaws are in operation under the Monmouthshire County Council Act 1956 controlling cleanliness and methods in these premises. Routine inspections are carried out to see that there is also compliance with the Shops Act 1950 (hours of closing) and the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963.

WARD	REGISTERED PREMISES OF HAIRDRESSING	
	LADIES	GENTLEMEN
New Tredegar	3	1
Aberbargoed	2	2
Pengam and Fleur-de-lis	2	2
Cefn Fforest	2	2
Blackwood	11	4
Argoed	-	-
Markham	2	1
Hollybush	1	-

During the year it was necessary to call the attention of two hairdressers to defects of ventilation and to cleanliness of premises. Generally, the premises were found to be in a satisfactory condition.

RODENT CONTROL

Over 250 complaints of rat infestation and some 20 of mouse infestation were received and dealt with by the rodent operator. A few of these arose during routine inspections of premises for other purposes. The poison used is warfarin.

In addition, surveys of blocks of properties, including food premises, have been made to ascertain the presence or otherwise of rat infestation. The number of infested premises was about the same as in previous years. Vacated colliery premises gave rise to a number of complaints from neighbouring householders.

Twice during the year, for periods of seven weeks, sewer junction man-holes were baited. Where manholes were found to be infested, repeat treatments were made and survey of adjoining properties carried out.

FACTORIES ACT 1961

PART I OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number on Register	Inspect- ions	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	2	2	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	34	35	1	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
Totals	36	37	1	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred		Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
			To H. M. Inspector	By H. M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1.)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2.)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3.)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4.)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or Defective	2	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other Offences against the Act (not including offences relating to out-work)	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	2	0	0	0	0

PART VIII OF THE ACT

There are no outworkers operating in the area.

OFFICES AND SHOPS

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963

Below is an extract from the report submitted to the Ministry of Labour on the operation of the above Act to 31st December, 1966:-

(i) Registration and General Inspections:

Class of Premises	No. of premises registered during the year	Total No. of registered premises at end of year	No. of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
Offices	2	49	4
Retail Shops	11	113	57
Wholesale shops, warehouses	-	1	-
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	-	9	-
Fuel storage depots	-	-	-
Totals	13	172	61

(ii) Number of visits of all kinds by inspectors to registered premises: 146.

Class of workplace	Number of persons employed
Offices	333
Retails shops	579
Wholesale departments, warehouses	27
Catering establishments open to the public	40
Canteens	4
Fuel storage depots	-
Total	983

Total Males 368

Total Females 615

(iii) Notices served, including reminders, in 1966:

Contraventions	No. of Notices
Sufficiency of heating and provision of thermometer	4
Provision of adequate washing facilities	2
Provision of first-aid equipment	1
Maintenance of stairs and stair-handrails	1
Maintenance of, and provision of adequate electric lighting to, sanitary accommodation	3

These notices refer to six shops and one office.

Number of notices completed during 1966: 8.

Except for recently served notices, due attention has been paid by the persons concerned to comply with the Act.

Number of investigations into reports of accidents to employees at shops: 4.

No formal action was necessary in any case, the accidents not being attributable to any defects of structure or maintenance of premises by employees.

There are probably a number of premises where notification of occupation and number of persons employed have not yet been received. It is intended to concentrate on such premises within the next few months.

Offices occupied by local authorities are under the Ministry of Labour Factory Inspectorate.

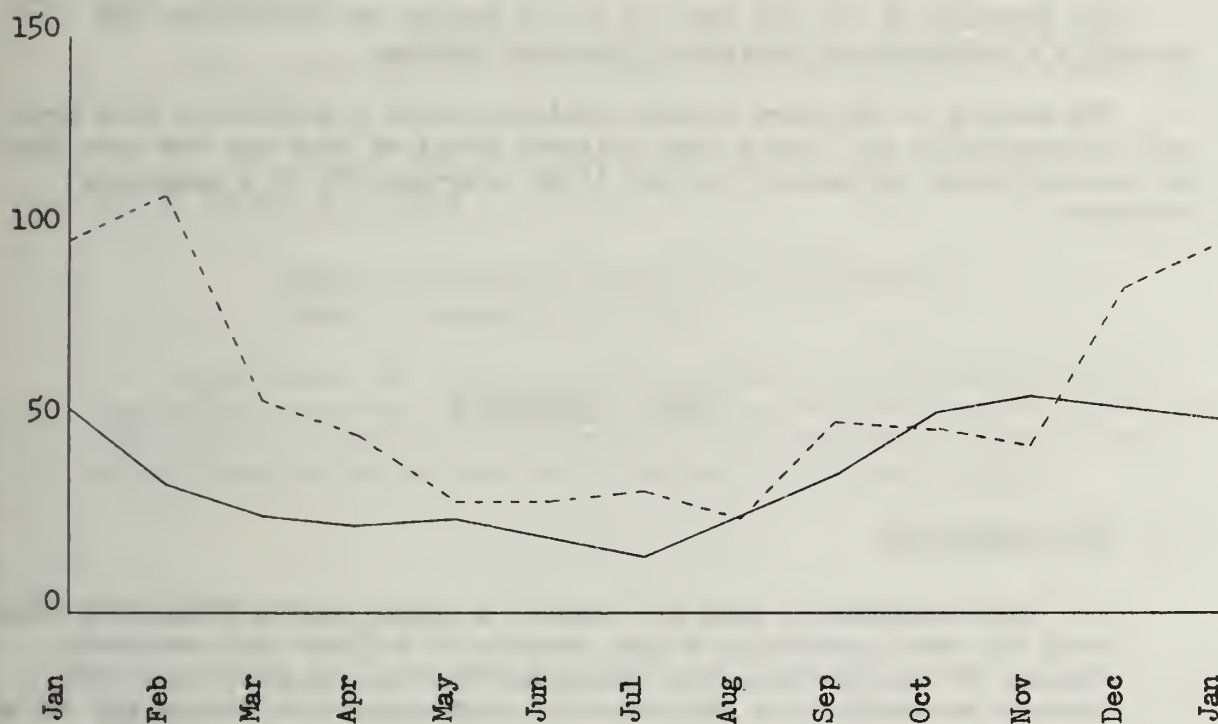
ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

In conjunction with the national survey, measurements have been taken daily at the Municipal Offices, Aberbargoed. The measurements include smoke concentration, sulphur dioxide content and radioactivity sampling. The latter is in conjunction with the Monmouthshire County Council scheme of control and such samples are analysed by the Public Analyst, Newport.

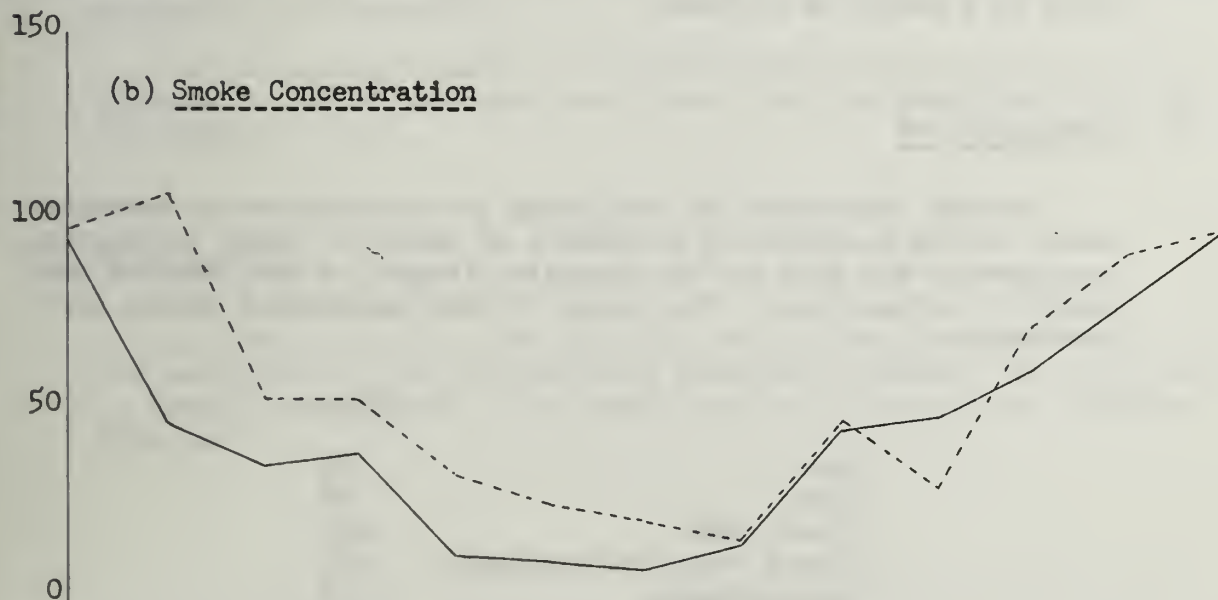
The results of smoke concentration and sulphur dioxide continue to follow the same pattern as in previous years although there was a slight overall decrease in both smoke and sulphur content.

Graphs showing comparison of smoke concentrations and sulphur dioxide readings in 1963 and 1966

(a) Sulphur Dioxide



(b) Smoke Concentration



1963 - - - -

1966 - - - -

Attention has had to be paid to the disposal of colliery waste at spoil-banks and, particularly, to the spoilbank of the Britannia Colliery, Pengam. Practical difficulty has been experienced in maintaining the water supply for wetting purposes at the tip and, whilst this system of spray control of refuse during its tipping is an improvement, one feels that it is not the complete answer inasmuch that the dry surface of the tip is still giving rise to dust nuisance within the area. Approaches have been made on several occasions to the National Coal Board to maintain vigilance in this matter.

The covering of the fly ash tip in the centre of Aberbargoed has virtually eliminated dust nuisance from that source.

The dumping of colliery refuse continues to be a problem in this area both aesthetically and from a dust nuisance point of view and the best that one can say about the matter is that it is a by-product of a necessary industry.

FOOD SUPERVISION

(a) Meat Inspection

The arrangements that the council's public health inspectors should carry out meat inspection during periods of holidays and emergency absence of inspectors in the Bedwas and Machen area have continued. There is no abattoir in this area but meat inspection is carried out at shops as a matter of routine.

(b) Condemned Food

Routine inspections of food shops and notification by managers result in the surrender of foodstuffs as unfit for human consumption. Arrangements are made for the adequate disposal of this food at the council's refuse tips. The amount of food surrendered during last year was:-

	<u>lbs.</u>
Meat	114
Fish	48
Tinned Meat	1002
Tinned fruit and vegetables	1014
Miscellaneous	<u>109</u>
	2287

1 ton 1 qr. 19 lbs.

In addition to the foregoing, on several occasions managers of shops have notified the breakdown of deep-freeze food cabinets. Whilst some of the food was not unsound on investigation, it was appreciated that it was unsaleable as 'frozen' food and a certificate to this effect was given to the proprietor of the shop.

(c) Food Poisoning

There was no case of food poisoning notified during the year.

(d) Public Houses and Clubs

Number of licensed premises in the area: 43
Number of inspections made: 82

Inspections are carried out during and out of licensing hours. Generally, the premises maintain a satisfactory standard of hygiene and the defects notified are mainly those of decoration of servery and cellars and the maintenance of a constant hot water supply.

(e) Ice Cream

A few premises manufacture ice cream but mainly the product sold is purchased from larger firms and premises are registered for the sale or storage of this commodity.

12 samples were taken for bacteriological examination and it is pleasing to report that nine were Grade 1 and the remaining three fell into Grades 2 and 3.

(f) Milk Supplies

44 samples of milk were examined for adequate pasteurisation and the assistance of the Public Health Laboratory, Newport, in this matter is greatly appreciated. One sample did not conform to the Methylene Blue test.

(g) Food and Drugs Act

I am obliged to Mr. R. J. Bullen, Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures, Monmouthshire County Council, for the following report:-

'Samples taken: 39 milk; 55 other food; 3 beer; Total 97

The Public Analyst certified all samples to be genuine with the exception of the following:-

Steak and Kidney Pies contained Mould

Employees of the County Council reported the purchase of a steak and kidney pie which was mouldy.

Grocer fined £6. £3. 3. Od. Costs.'

(h) General

Constant supervision is being paid to all premises where food is distributed, prepared or sold, including cafes, restaurants, butchers' shops, pithead and factory canteens, school canteens and fried fish premises.

Contraventions of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960, on notification, were complied with. However, during the year it was necessary to take legal action against one shop-keeper. This action was taken subsequent to several warnings and failure to comply with advice given on a number of inspections.

The prosecution was taken for offences under Regulations 5, 6, 8, 16, 19 and 23 of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960, and included failure to comply with:-

Regulation 5 - food business not to be carried out at insanitary premises;

Regulation 6 - cleanliness of equipment etc;

Regulation 8 - food to be protected from risk of contamination;

Regulation 16 - wash-hand basin to be provided with hot water, soap, nail-brush and towels;

Regulation 19 - facilities for washing food and equipment.

Regulation 23 - cleanliness and repair etc. of food premises.

The court fined the defendant on 11 counts.

My appreciation is extended to all members of the staff of this department who have carried out their duties during the past year with enthusiasm and to the council and their officers for their assistance and support.

Yours faithfully,

A. M. COLEMAN

Chief Public Health Inspector.

